fro henceforthe that we begynne to people this noble cyte/to ỹ entente that it̃e be not waste nor voyde but enhabyted of ladyes of grete excellence/for we wyll none other people. ¶ O howe fortunate shall ỹ cytezynes of our cyte be/for they shall haue no nede to haue dzede nor doubte to be dyslodged of theyr possessyon by straũgers. For this is ỹ propzyete of our werke ỹ the owners shall not nede to be put out. And nowe there is a newe femenyne royalme bygon/but it is moche more worthyer thanthat other was. For it shall nede ỹ the ladyes lodged here goo out of theyr lande for to conceyue ne bzynge forthe newe heyres to mayntayne theyr possessyon by dyuers ages fro lygne to lygne. For it shall suffyse ynoughe for euer of them ỹ we shall put in it nowe/for this is ỹ destyne of them/ỹ they shall neuer dye. And without fayle they shall abyde in the same age/beaute/and freshnesse/ be they yonge or olde that we shall put therin. And when we haue peopled it with noble cytezynes. Dame Justyne my syster shall come after ỹ shall bzynge thyder ỹ quene /aboue all other women moost excellent/accompanyed w̃ pzyncesses of grete dygnyte / whiche shall enhabyte ỹ moost hyghe places & hyghe dongeons. For it is good reason ỹ when ỹ quene shal come thyder that she fynde the cyte garnysshed & peopled of noble ladyes that sholde receyue her with grete worshyp as theyr souerayne lady & Empzesse of all theyr kynde/ yet what cytezyns shall we put there/shall they be vnstable wo-

men or detained/certaynly nay/but they shal be al worshypfull women & of grete auctoryte. For no ee fayre people ne more grete aray may not be in a cyte than good women & worshypfull. Now we ryse leeke frende/now we put the in bulynes and go before/and lette vs seke them.

Here xpine asketh of dame ryght wysnesse yf ȳ be true ȳ these bokes & these men sayth ȳ the lyfe of maryage is harde to bere for ȳ occasyon of wome & to theyr grete wronge. And ryght wysnesse answereth & begynneth to speke of the grete loue of women to theyr husbandes. Ca. xiij.

When in goynge to seke the fore sayd ladyes by ȳ ordynaunce of dame ryght wysnesse/ in goynge I sayd these wordes/ma dame wout fayle ye & reason haue assoyled & concluded soo wel & so fayre my questyons & demaundes ȳ I can not replye no more/& I holde me ryght well enfourmed of ȳ ȳ I sought. And by you two I haue lerned ynoughe how we al thynges able ought to be done & lerned/as moche in strengthe of bodyes as in wysdome of vnderstandynge/ & yf al vertues be possyble to be executed by women. But yet I pray you ȳ ye wolde telle & certyfye me / yf it be true ȳ these men say/ & so many auctours bereth wytnesse thrughe the whiche I am in ryght a grete thought/ ȳ the ly

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ſe of ꝯ ordre of mariage be to men heuy & enuyron
ned of ſo grete tempeſt by ꝯ blame & impoꝛtunyte
of women & of theyꝛ rauenous grefe/ as it is wꝛy
ten in many bokes/ & people ynowe wytneſſeth it.
and that they loue theyꝛ huſbandes and theyꝛ com
pany ſo lytell / ꝯ nothynge noyeth them ſo moche/
by ꝯ whiche to voyde ſuche incõuenyences/ many
haue counſayled ꝯ wyſe men ꝯ they mary not/ cer-
teſyenge ꝯ ſelde of them be true in theyꝛ partye / &
alſo Walere Wꝛyteth to Ruphyn/ & Theophraſtus
in his boke ſayth ꝯ noo wyſe man ought to take a
wyfe / foꝛ there is but lytell lou[illegible] / hut
grete charge & Janglynge. And yf ꝯ mã do it t
ꝯ better ſerued & kepte in his ſykenes/ moꝛe bette
& moꝛe truely a true ſeruaunt ſhall kepe hym & ſer
ue hym/ & ſhal not coſt hym ſo moche. And yf ꝯ wo
man be ſyke ꝯ huſbande is in grete ſoꝛowe/ & dare
not ſpeke one woꝛde nyghe her. And ynoughe of
ſuche thynges he telleth whiche ſholde be to longe
to reherce/ wherfoꝛe I ſay myne owne lady that yf
theſe thynges be true/ theſe defaultes be ſo grete ꝯ
all ꝯ grace & vertues ꝯ they may haue be brought
to nought and quenched. ¶ Anſwere. Certes dere
frende ſo as ꝯ thyſelfe hath ſayd ſomtyme to ꝯ pur
poſe ꝯ one may lede a proceſſe well at his eaſe that
pledeth without partye. And I promyſe the that ꝯ
bokes that ſo ſayth women made them not. But
I trowe ꝯ he ꝯ wolde make a newe booke ꝯ were
true of the debates of mariage & ꝯ he were enfour
med of ꝯ trouthe one ſholde fynde other tydynges

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Alas dere frende how many women be there as
then ano well thyselfe ȳ vseth they were lyke in ȳ
bande of maryage by the hardnesse of they hus-
bondes in more greter penaunce than they were esclā
ues amonge the sarazynes. Ha god how many
harde betynges without cause & reason/how ma
ny vylanous wronges & outragyous bondages
suffreth many of these good and worshypfull wo-
men whiche all crye not out an haro we/and suche
ȳ dye for hungre/and for mysease/& they hus-
bondes ben at the taverne/and in other dyssolute pla-
ces/ [illegible] women shall be beten at
[illegible] home/and that shal be they souper. And
eche day ȳ these husbandes ben ouy thynge sore wrul
for the sykenesse of they wyues. I praye the my lo
ue where be they. And without that/ ȳ I say more
to the/thou mayst knowe well ȳ these sclaundres
sayd agaynst women who so saythe it they were
& be thynges founde & sayd of vyolence & ayenste
trouthe. For the husbandes ben maysters ouer the
women/& not ȳ women they maystresses/so they
wolde neuer suffre suche auctorite of they wyues
But I promyse the ȳ all maryages be not mayn-
teyned in suche contentes it were grete damage.
For there ben some that lyueth in peasyblenesse/lo
ue/and trouthe togyder/by that that ȳ partyes be
good & discrete/and reasonable/thoughe it be not
of euyll husbandes. There ben rygbt good / wor-
thy [illegible] ll/and wyse/and that the women that me-
ete with them lyueth as to the glory of ȳ worlde